MEMO

Date: November 1, 2020

To: SDO CEOs, CMOs, CNOs
Provincial Specialty Leads

From: Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: Updated Guidance for AGMPs in Hospital – Pediatrics

As COVID-19 activity continues to increase, the Provincial Respiratory Virus Committee is issuing the following guidance for AGMPs performed in the Pediatric emergency, inpatient and surgical areas, neonatal intensive care units, pediatric specialty care units and pediatric intensive care units.

Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs)

Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) - With the exception of COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 suspect patients, N95s and additional precautions for COVID-19 are not required. **Note:** Precautions may be discontinued when the COVID-positive or suspect patient has been cleared.

**Pediatric Specialty Care Unit (PSCU)** – Patients within this unit should be treated as GREEN as they will likely have been in hospital for 14 or more days. Use of N95 respirators and closed doors are not required for AGMPs.

For patients who have been in hospital for less than 14 days, if a negative COVID-19 test has been received during their admission, the patient would be GREEN and N95s and additional precautions would not be required when performing an AGMP.

Patients who have been in hospital for less than 14 days with no symptoms or exposure consistent with COVID-19 are considered GREEN but if they have not been tested for COVID-19 then out an abundance of precaution a test should be performed and N95’s would be required when performing an AGMP until the result comes back negative. In this situation a private room is preferred but not mandatory.

**Children’s Hospital Inpatient Units and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)** – Newly admitted patients with COVID-19 symptoms (respiratory or other) or exposure are considered ORANGE and N95s and additional precautions for COVID-19 are to be used when performing AGMPs.
Note: Once a negative COVID-19 test result has been received, the symptomatic patient would become GREEN and N95s and additional precautions would no longer be required when performing an AGMP. For patients with exposure to a known positive patient, consultation with IP and C is recommended.

Newly admitted patients with no symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (respiratory or other) or exposure are considered GREEN but if they have not been tested for COVID-19 then out an abundance of precaution a test should be performed and N95’s would be required when performing an AGMP until the result comes back negative. In this situation a private room is preferred.

For patients who have been in hospital for less than 14 days, if a negative COVID-19 test has been received during their admission, the patient would be GREEN; N95s and additional precautions would not be required when performing an AGMP.

Patients that have been in the hospital for >14 days and demonstrated no symptoms or signs consistent with COVID-19, do not need to be tested and are considered GREEN; N95’s and additional precautions are not required when performing an AGMP.

Children’s Hospital Emergency Department (CHED) – Patients with COVID-19 symptoms (respiratory or other) or exposure are considered ORANGE and N95s and additional precautions for COVID-19 are to be used when performing AGMPs. Patients without COVID-19 symptoms (respiratory or other) or exposure are considered GREEN; however out of an abundance of caution; N95s and additional precautions for COVID-19 are to be used when performing AGMPs until the patient is tested and is negative.

Pre-Operative Testing and Surgery/Procedure Precautions
For patients who have been swabbed within 24 hours and test negative within the 24 hours prior to an AGMP (e.g. pre-operative testing with endotracheal intubation being the AGMP), use of N95s or additional precautions for COVID-19 ARE NOT recommended. For greater clarity, if the patient’s swab/sample was collected more than 24 hours prior to the AGMP, use of N95s and additional precautions ARE recommended.

NOTE: For patients who have not been tested within 24 hours of surgery/AGMP procedure, if all members of the operative team are wearing N95 respirators, the 14 minute guideline for 99% air clearance in the operating theatre is not required. For circumstances where N95s are not worn by all members of the operating team, continue to refer to Section 4: AGMP Environmental Controls at: https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/aerosol-generating-medical-procedures-AGMPs.pdf.

Admission and Testing
New admissions do not require mandatory testing. All new admissions should adhere to the same protocols/criteria for COVID-19 testing.
Conservation and Preservation of PPE
All health care workers are reminded that the conservation and stewardship of personal protective equipment (PPE) is important in order to ensure the availability of PPE for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Where N95s are required to be worn, extended use of the same mask for repeated interactions with multiple COVID-19 Positive or Suspect patients should follow the Provincial Requirements for PPE Guidance, refer to https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-provincial-ppe-requirements.pdf. Change N95 if it becomes wet, damaged, soiled and/or at breaks.